

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed January 13, 2005, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.

Claims 2-37 were previously pending in this application.

The Office Action rejected claims 25-37 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Knotz (U.S. Patent No. 6,289,055). Although Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection, Applicants are canceling claims 25-37 solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution of the application to allowance.

As a result claims 2-24 are pending in the application with claims 2, 9, 11 and 21 being independent claims. No new matter has been added. The application as presented is believed to be in allowable condition.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 2-24.

Serial No.: 10/616,451
Conf. No.: 1042

- 12 -

Art Unit: 2816

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurent Dulau, and Serge Pontarollo,
Applicants

By: 

James H. Morris, Reg. No. 34,681
Wolf, Greenfield & Sacks, P.C.
600 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2206
Telephone: (617) 646-8000

Docket No.: S1022.81065US00
Date: April 11, 2005
x04/13/05x